

the Protection of Birds Act of 1954 makes such sales without licence illegal.

The fifth division is by W. D. Ian Rolfe, who points out that fossils have usually appeared in sales amongst bric-à-brac, and quotes extracts from catalogues which strike a decidedly humorous note. Sir Hans Sloane's collection, which founded the British Museum (Natural History), is quoted but the author states that fossils do not seem to have inspired many serious collectors. Minerals, by Peter G. Embrey, is the title of the next section, and the author observes that specimens under this title may be classified as minerals, jewellery, or works of art according to the manner in which they have been handled.

Finally Shells, by S. Peter Dance, commences by pointing out that the durability of shells, the ease with which they may be preserved, and also the beauty of many of them, serve to endear them to the collector, and have caused them to appear in many sales and the true conchologist is not such a frequent figure. However, several collections and their sales are mentioned.

Part II, the Register of Natural History Sales, opens by listing signs and abbreviations used, and abbreviations used for catalogue locations. The next 123 pages carry sale details in five columns, date, source, contents, auctioneer and sale catalogue, and reference. Chronological order has been maintained as far as possible, items whose dates are unknown or are uncertain have been listed separately at the end. In this way something over 1,500 entries appear. Finally, there is an index of collectors, vendors, etc., which makes access to the Register as simple as possible.

The publishers are to be congratulated on their having produced a fine book, excellently printed on excellent paper, and strongly bound. The edition is a limited one, but the book should be available to all research workers in the natural history sphere. — S.N.A.J.

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NYMPHALIS POLYCHLOROS L. (LARGE TORTOISESHELL) IN KENT AND HAMPSHIRE. — In mid-July 1965, I found a number of larvae of this butterfly at Allington Lock, near Sandling, off the river Medway, and about one mile west of Maidstone, Kent. Several were on a lower branch of an old elm, and these did not seem to be feeding but wandering away from the foliage or dropping to the ground presumably seeking a place for pupation. Unfortunately the majority of the larvae were found dead on the river bank below the elm, having been trampled. I do not collect myself, but of a few that a friend kept, one pupated within a week but was parasitised.

In early August 1967, I observed an adult *polychloros* in the woodland behind Hurn Airport, near Bournemouth. The insect flew some 15 feet above the ground on to a large branch, and though fairly high up was clearly recognisable as this species. — C. P. J. SAMSON, 116B Boxley Road, Maidstone, Kent, M14 2BD.